

**Remarks/Arguments:**

***Summary of Changes Made***

By this Amendment, claims 8, 17-21 and 32 have been amended, and claims 1-7, 9-16, 22-31 and 33 have been canceled. Accordingly, claims 8, 17-21 and 32 are pending in the application.

***Claim Objections***

In the prior Office Action, the Examiner objected to claims 9 and 12 due to informalities. Inasmuch as claims 9 and 12 have been canceled, the prior objections thereto are moot.

***Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §112***

Claims 22 and 23 were rejected in the prior Office Action under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for reciting the molar ratios of the various monomeric units outside of the scope of claim 12 from which such claims depended. Inasmuch as claims 22 and 23 have been canceled, the prior rejection thereof is now moot.

***Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §102 and 103***

In the prior Office Action, claims 1-7, 9-16, 22-31 and 33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 and §103 as anticipated by or unpatentable over Buentello et al., U.S. 2003/0052303A1 ("Buentello"), Kadano et al., U.S. Pat. No. 4,652,621 ("Kadano") and/or Tsubakimoto et al., U.S. Pat. No. 4,870,120 ("Tsubakimoto"). Although

applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's rejection of such claims in view of the cited prior art, by this Amendment applicants have canceled claims 1-7, 9-16, 22-31 and 33 in order to expedite the issuance of a patent containing the remaining claims. Applicants filed a continuation-in-part application on June 23, 2004 and hereby expressly reserve the right to prosecute the presently canceled subject matter therein.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

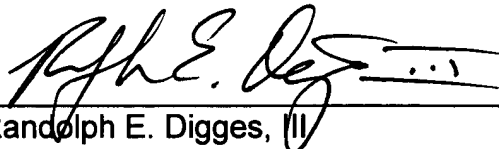
In the prior Office Action, the Examiner objected to claims 8, 17-21 and 32 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicated that such claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. By this Amendment, claims 8, 17-21 and 32 have been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In addition, some minor formatting changes (e.g., the indentation of sub-paragraphs, changing the case of previously capitalized words, and the rearrangement of the order of some claim elements) have been made to make the claims read more clearly. No new matter has been added to the application.

**Conclusion**

In view of the foregoing, applicants respectfully submit that claims 8, 17-21 and 32 are presently in condition for allowance. The issuance of a timely Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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